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COUNTRY Indochina

SUBJECT Projected Viet Minh Offensive in Laos

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1. Viet Minh Army Forces will invade the main areas of Laos within one month. Regular Viet Minh Army troops are already concentrated in northern Laos, and small-scale guerrilla action is frequent. The Lao Government will not allow King Sisavong to travel between Vientiane and Luang Prabang, as portions of the road are controlled by the Viet Minh.
2. French forces will be unable to hold Laos against a Viet Minh offensive because of lack of weapons and the effect of Viet Minh propaganda on the morale of French troops. Lao Government forces are extremely weak and virtually without arms; they could resist a Viet Minh or Chinese Communist attack for only a short length of time. Most Lao Government leaders would attempt to escape or commit suicide in the event of such an attack.

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